

C. Remarks

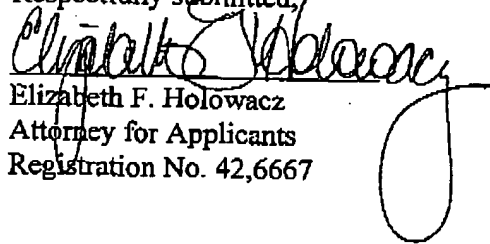
The claims are 1, 2, 5-18, 20-22, 24-28 and 31-35, with claims 1, 22, and 34 being independent. Claim 29 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of December 19, 2006. At the Examiner's request, Applicants have now cancelled claim 29 while reserving the right to file a divisional application directed to the same. In view of the foregoing cancellation and remarks, favorable reconsideration and passage to reissue is earnestly requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212)218-2100. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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